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SARE is Scopus-Indexed

By Prof. Dr. Sharmani Gabriel

SARE: Southeast Asian Review of English, published by the Department of English of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya is currently indexed in SCOPUS, the world's largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature. According to the Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB) of SCOPUS "SARE is outwards looking and undoubtedly has international potential. It consistently includes articles that are scientifically sound and relevant to an international academic or professional audience in its field."

SARE at <https://sare.um.edu.my/>
aims to be a key critical forum for

original, theoretically-informed research and fresh conversations from all over the world on the literatures, languages, and cultures of Southeast, South, and East Asia.

In addition to SCOPUS, SARE is indexed in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Malaysian Citation Index (MyCite), UDledge i-Journals (Social Sciences and Humanities), UDledge i-Focus (Social Sciences and Humanities), Google Scholar, MLA Directory of Periodicals (USA), MLA International Bibliography (USA), EBSCOhost, Bibliography of Asian Studies (USA), and the Journal of Commonwealth Literature's Annual Bibliography (UK).

Disclaimer: This e-newsletter is an essential communication link between the FASS, UM and the wider community. It is imperative that the newsletter is accurate, informative and contain information that will mutually benefit both Faculty and community members.



FASS Celebrates Chinese New Year

By Khairul Zulkifli Ng

On 12th February 2019, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) hosted a Chinese New Year celebration to bring everyone in the faculty together. The celebration began with opening remarks from the Dean, who then invited all heads of department and faculty management to take part in the auspicious act of tossing Yee Sang. This was followed by a sumptuous meal as well as a lion dance performance. Attendees were also invited to try their hand at Chinese calligraphy and were introduced to various types of Chinese tea.

This initiative was made possible by the generous support of the Chinese Studies Department, FASS. This event was well attended by staff and students of the faculty. Students from Global Network Club and their Korean buddies from the Summer Enrichment Program were also present.



SEP Completes Phase II

By Khairul Zulkifli Ng



The Summer Enrichment Programme (SEP) has become a vital part of the FASS. Recently, the faculty hosted 13 Japanese students from Tottori University (18th February - 8th March) and 56 students from Kwansei Gakuin University, Okayama University, Shizuoka University, Osaka Prefecture University and University of Fukui (25th February until 15th March). In their time at the faculty, these students had intensive intercultural communication classes and were introduced to Malaysian culture and

traditions. 36 i-smart buddies from the Global Network Club helped facilitate the program and its many activities which included traditional dance and music classes, debate competitions and community engagement with local schools. They also visited iconic sites like Putrajaya, Batu Caves, Thean Hou Temple and the historical city of Melaka.

The faculty looks forward to hosting more of these programs in line with the spirit of internationalization.

Exploring the Thirukkural

By AP Dr Krishanan

Department of Indian Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, together with OMS Foundation, hosted an International Conference, "Pengajian Karya Agung Thirukkural", from 22 to 24th February 2019 at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UM. A total of 350 participants from countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, India, Sri Lanka, France, Germany, Dubai, China, Australia and Mauritius participated in this conference. A total of 200 papers and 4 keynote addresses were delivered throughout this conference.

Minister of Penang. Mr. P. Thiagarajan, General Manager of OMS foundation was also present during the conference.



The opening ceremony was officiated by YB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, President of Parti Keadilan Rakyat and Port Dickson MP. In his opening speech, he described his experience of reading the Thirukkural, linking it to everyday life. Datuk Professor Dr. Danny Wong Tze-Ken, Dean of the Faculty also praised the merits of the Thirukkural. One of the keynote addresses was delivered by former Deputy Minister, Tan Sri K. Kumaran. The closing ceremony was graced by YB P. Ramasamy, Deputy Chief



On 25 February 2019, Department of East Asian Studies hosted a seminar on Japan Studies, with the theme "Education in Japan". The department co-organised with this event with Malaysian Association of Japanese Studies (MAJAS), Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur, and Malaysia-Japan Research Centre (MJRC). This roundtable discussion brought together Japanese studies scholars from MAJAS and students majoring in Japanese studies. The objective of the seminar was knowledge-sharing, with the publication of a book on Japan in mind.

Talk on Japan Held

By Dr Rohayati Paidi



Delegation from Thammasat University Visits SEAS

By Dr Mala Raja Sathian

On 14th February 2019, a delegation of 70 people, comprising undergraduates from the Southeast Asian Studies Program, Thammasat University, Thailand accompanied by Prof Charnvit Kasetsiri and Dr. Chaiwat Maesantan visited the Thai Studies Program at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The visit was the third in a series of annual exchanges between the two departments since the signing of an MOU between University of Malaya and Royal Thai Embassy, Kuala Lumpur.

The students were given a briefing on the programs and activities conducted by the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, UM. The highlight of the study tour was a visit to Muzium Seni Asia. The students were introduced to the museum's Thai Sawankhalok, Kendi, and Ban Chiang pottery collections.

Of particular interest were three prized elephant sculptures which were gifted to the museum by Khun Kraisi Nimanhaeminda, renowned Thai historian and member of a rich Sino-Thai family in Chiang Mai. These sculptures are among only twenty surviving elephant heads of the Sukhotai period. Accompanied by Khun Pimpalai Phisanbutr, ceramic specialist and arts enthusiast from Bangkok, Prof Charnvit Kasetsiri spoke to the students about these important artefacts. The museum curator was presented with Siamese in Malaysia, a book jointly authored by a Malaysian and Thai and published by the Social Sciences Foundation of Thailand. The visit was reported in the Thai daily, Matichon (https://www.matichon.co.th/education/news_1363651).



Dr Khoo Speaks at Pyeongchang Global Peace Forum

By Dr Khoo Ying Hooi

Dr. Khoo Ying Hooi from the Department of International and Strategic Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences was invited to speak at two sessions of the Pyeongchang Global Peace Forum (PGPF). Attended by more than 500 people from 50 countries and 200 organisations, PGPF was held at in Pyeongchang, Korea from 9th to 11th of February. Sponsored by Arirang and Pyeongchang Peace Forum Steering Committee, the PGPF is held to further foster what the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics and Paralympics have established, namely the regeneration of peace in the Korean peninsula.

Among the speakers at the forum were Minister of Unification Myung-Kyun Cho, Minister of Women and Family Affairs Jin Sun Mi, former Polish president and 1983 Nobel Peace Prize winner Lech Walesa, and Governor of Gangwon Province Choi Moon-soon. Dr Khoo spoke on SDG 16 and peace, and on peace education and research, both from the human rights perspective in reference to Timor Leste.

Three documents were adopted at the end of the forum: PyeongChang Declaration for Peace 2019 with the title Sustainable Future For All: Ending War, Guaranteeing Peace; a Resolution for Sustaining Peace Process in Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia; and the PyeongChang

Agenda for Peace 2030. Dr. Khoo assisted in translating these three documents to Chinese language. Her commentary on the event was published in The Malaysian Insight on 23rd February (<https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/s/135570>).



Dr. Khoo Ying Hooi from the Department of International and Strategic Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences presented a paper at the International Conference on Localization of the SDGs and the Co-Construction of the Means of Implementation on 23rd -24th February at Yonsei University's Wonju Campus.

The conference was co-hosted by



Dr Khoo: Sustainable Development Goals should

Go Local

By Dr Khoo Ying Hooi

the Institution for Poverty Alleviation and International Development (IPAID) at Yonsei University, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and supported by various stakeholders. Dr Khoo's paper was titled "Localization of the SDGs: The Role of Domestic Norm Entrepreneurs and the Challenges Ahead."



Dr Roy Completes Participation in Erasmus +

By Dr Roy Anthony Rogers

Dr Roy Anthony Rogers of International and Strategic Studies Department participated in the Erasmus+ Higher Education Staff Exchange programme between the University of Malaya and the University of Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom. Dr Roy was attached to the Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies from the 28th January to 18th February 2019. During the tenure, he conducted several public lectures on the government and politics of Central Asia, on China's soft power and the political situation in Xinjiang, and on the Uyghur Autonomous Region, China. The lectures were attended by Prof. Jane Duckett, Dr. Neil Munro, Dr. Huseyn Aliyev and Dr. Marcin Kaczmarek, prominent scholars whose research on similar topics opens up possibilities for joint research and publication.

EU Policy Briefing

By Prof. Danny Wong

On 14th February, Prof. Danny Wong, Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, was part of a team of scholars from the CRISEA (Competing Regional Integration in Southeast Asia) Project that provided a policy briefing to the European Union Delegation in Manila. This was followed by a seminar in Ateneo de Manila University on 15th February, at which Prof. Wong spoke on the rise of China and its impact on the ethnic Chinese in Southeast Asia. The project was funded by the European Union under Project Horizon 2020 Framework Programme.



A Glimpse of History

University of Malaya in 1962 with FASS in the foreground, the Science Faculty on the left and Engineering on the right. On the far right are the first two residential colleges. The campus was surrounded by rubber trees and secondary jungle.



UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES